GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:225
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2005
SETTING UP OF TASK FORCE
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had constituted a task force to spot tigers in the Tiger reserves in the country;

(b) if so, whether the said task force has visited all tiger reserves across the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of tigers spotted by the task force, part-wise;

(e) the measures suggested by the task force to strengthen tiger conservation in the country; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to implement these suggestions?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) Based on the recommendations made in the meeting of the National Board for Wildlife on 17-03-2005 under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister, a Task Force has been constituted to review the management of Tiger Reserves in the country. The Terms of Reference of the Task Force are at Annexure-I.

(b)&(c)During the course of its study the Task Force visited the following tiger reserves as representative cases :-

Periyar (Kerala)
Pench (Maharashtra)
Pench (MP)
Kanha (MP)
Sariska (Rajasthan)
Ranthambhore (Rajasthan)

(d) The Task Force spotted as many as 15 tigers during the field visit (1 in Pench(MP) and 14 in Kanha (MP)).

(e) As per the Terms of Reference the Task Force is expected to submit its report within three months.

(f) Question does not arise.

ANNEXURE-1

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 225 TO BE ANSWERED ON MONDAY, THE 25TH JULY, 2005 ON SETTING UP OF TASK FORCE

The terms of reference of the Task Force are as follows :

1. Suggest measures to strengthen tiger conservation in the country.

2. Suggest measures to incentivise the local community in conservation of tigers.

3. Suggest measures to incentivise local forest staff posted in sanctuaries/national parks and ensure an effective HR plan for tiger conservation/wildlife managers.

4. Suggest measures to improve the methodology of tiger counting and forecasting.

5. Suggest methods of transparent professional audit of wildlife parks and placing data on tiger conservation in the public domain.

6. Suggest a new wildlife management paradigm that shares concerns of conservation with the public at large.